

AMENDMENT
S/N 09/460,107, FILED 12/13/99

PATENT
130-129

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (withdrawn)

Claims 12-28 (cancelled)

29. (previously added) An apparatus for performing a reagent protocol using polymerase chain reaction, comprising:

(a) means to index patterns of reagent wells on a continuous basis through at least one step of reagent addition to said reagent wells;

(b) means to index said patterns of reagent wells on a continuous basis through a plurality of individual heat transfer stations, whereby at each of said individual heat transfer stations, said patterns of reagent wells are subjected to a unique temperature change to cause one amplification step, with said plurality of individual heat transfer stations providing total amplification required for said protocol; and

(c) means to seal said reagent wells following said at least one step of reagent addition to said wells, wherein said patterns of reagent wells are sealed to provide a liquid tight but peelable seal as provided by pressure sensitive adhesive or heat seal methods.

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30. (previously added) An apparatus for performing a reagent protocol using polymerase chain reaction, comprising:

- (a) means to index patterns of reagent wells on a continuous basis through at least one step of reagent addition to said reagent wells;
- (b) means to index said patterns of reagent wells on a continuous basis through a plurality of individual heat transfer stations, whereby at each of said individual heat transfer stations, said patterns of reagent wells are subjected to a unique temperature change to cause one amplification step, with said plurality of individual heat transfer stations providing total amplification required for said protocol;
- (c) means to seal said reagent wells following said at least one step of reagent addition to said wells; and
- (d) separate heat exchanger compartments can be clamped to a lower surface of a thermoplastic web containing said patterns of reagent wells to form a liquid tight seal around individual said patterns of reagent wells.

31. (previously added) An apparatus, as defined in Claim 30, further comprising: means to cause heat exchange fluid to flow through each of said separate heat exchanger compartments for specific time controlled periods.

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32. (previously added) An apparatus for performing a reagent protocol using polymerase chain reaction, comprising:

- (a) means to index patterns of reagent wells on a continuous basis through at least one step of reagent addition to said reagent wells;
- (b) means to index said patterns of reagent wells on a continuous basis through a plurality of individual heat transfer stations, whereby at each of said individual heat transfer stations, said patterns of reagent wells are subjected to a unique temperature change to cause one amplification step, with said plurality of individual heat transfer stations providing total amplification required for said protocol;
- (c) means to seal said reagent wells following said at least one step of reagent addition to said wells; and
- (d) means to peel sealing material from a top of said thermoplastic web to provide access to said reagents by a single or multiple well pipettor, said means to peel including a heated pressure roller in contact with said sealing material to apply a line of heat across said thermoplastic web to soften bonding of said sealing material to said thermoplastic web to permit ease of removal by applying tension to said sealing material.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

None.

It is noted that the Examiner has agreed to cancel the patent numbers and issue dates for Serial Nos. 09/271,050 and/or 09/198,018 if they are not available when the instant application is allowed.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAWING FIGURES

None.